

Replace the paragraph starting at page 10, line 1 with the following text:

--CLAIMS

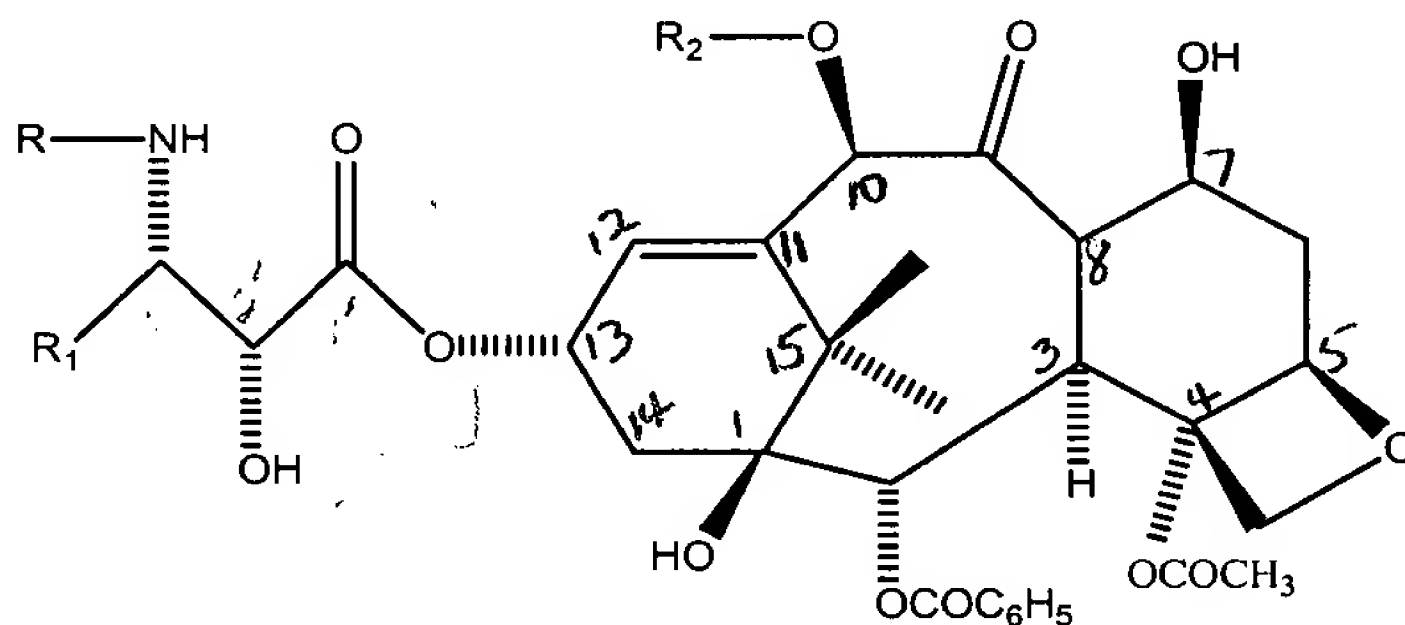
What is claimed is:--

IN THE CLAIMS

A complete listing of the currently pending claims is provided in Appendix C for the Examiners convenience.

Please cancel claims 1-9 and add the following new claims:

10. (New) A process for preparing a compound of formula I

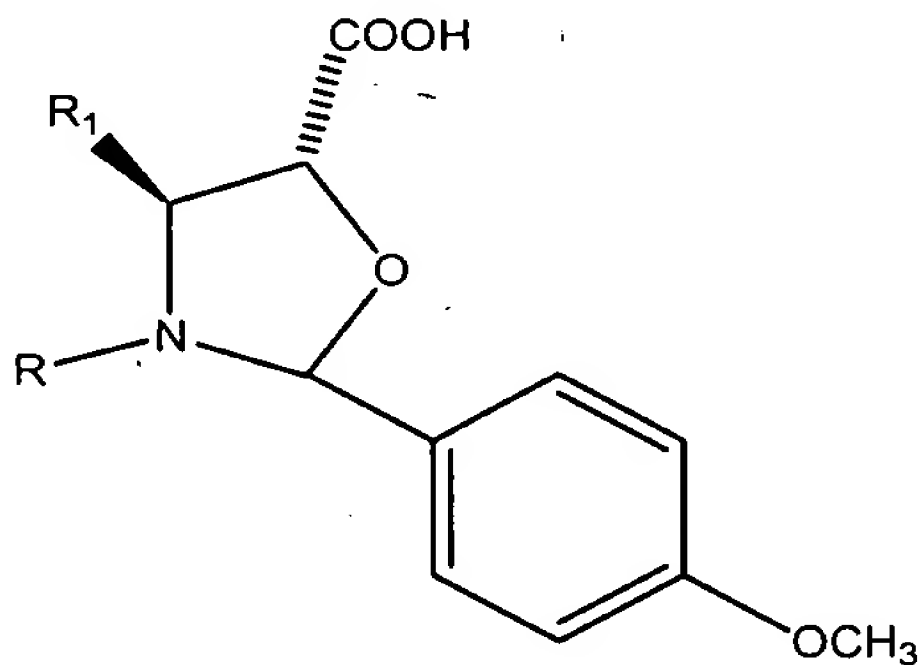


(I)

wherein R is a *tert*-butoxycarbonyl, benzoyl, or straight or branched chain alkyl carbonyl group; R<sub>1</sub> is a phenyl or a straight or branched alkyl or alkenyl group; and R<sub>2</sub> is hydrogen or an acetyl group comprising

(a) simultaneously protecting the C-7 and C-10 hydroxyl groups of 10-deacetylbaecatin III with trichloroacetyl groups to provide a protected 10-deacetylbaecatin III,

(b) esterifying the C-13 hydroxyl group of the protected 10-deacetylbaecatin III with an oxazolidine 5-carboxylic acid of formula II



(II)

wherein R is a *tert*-butoxycarbonyl, benzoyl, or straight or branched chain alkyl carbonyl group; R<sub>1</sub> is a phenyl or a straight or branched alkyl or alkenyl group to provide a protected C-13 esterified 10-deacetylbaccatin III having an oxazolidine ring at the C-13 position;

(c) removing the trichloroacetyl groups from the protected C-13 esterified 10-deacetylbaccatin III to provide a C-13 esterified 10-deacetylbaccatin III;

(d) optionally acetylating the C-10 hydroxyl group of the C-13 esterified 10-deacetylbaccatin III; and

(e) hydrolyzing the oxazolidine ring of the protected C-13 esterified 10-deacetylbaccatin III in the presence of an acid.

11. (New) The process of claim 10, wherein step (b) is carried out in the presence of a condensing agent and a base.

12. (New) The process of claim 11, wherein the condensing agent is dicyclohexylcarbodiimide.

13. (New) The process of claim 12, wherein the base is pyridine.

14. (New) The process of claim 10, wherein step (c) is carried out using NH<sub>4</sub>OH/NH<sub>4</sub>Cl in an aliphatic solvent.

15. (New) The process of claim 10, wherein step (d) is carried out by reacting the C-13 esterified 10-deacetylbaccatin III with acetic anhydride in the presence of a cerium III, scandium, or ytterbium salt.

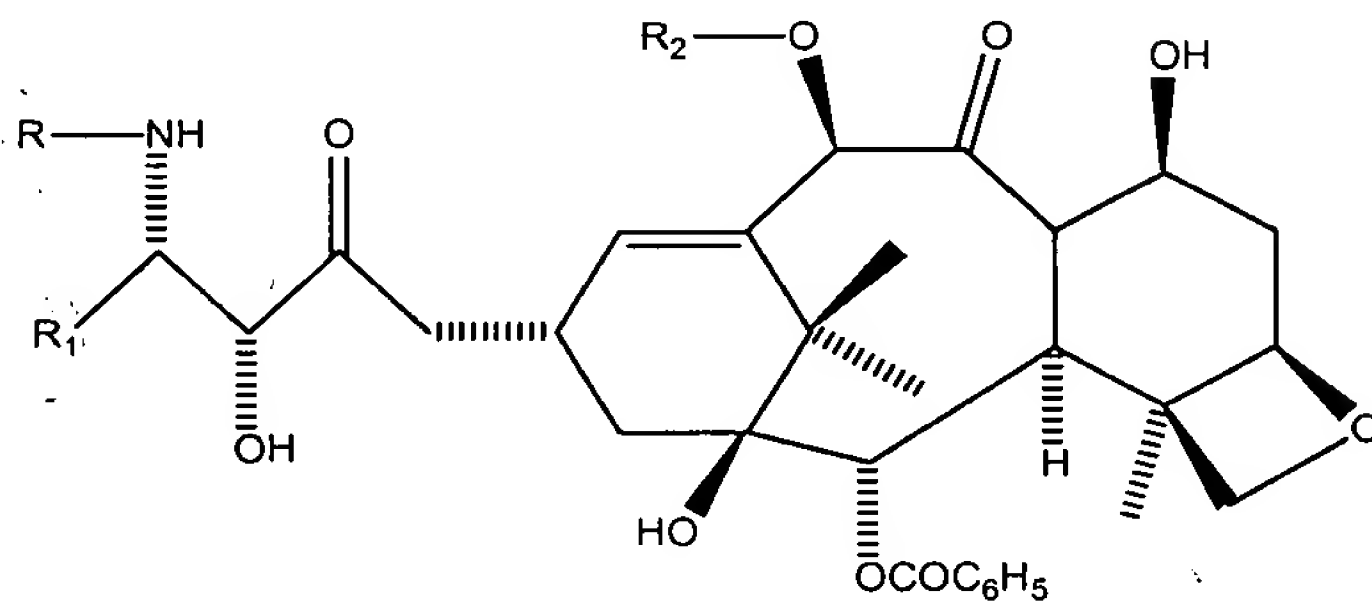
16. (New) The process of claim 10, wherein step (e) is carried out by reacting the protected C-13 esterified 10-deacetylbaccatin III with an organic acid or an inorganic acid in an aliphatic alcohol or tetrahydrofuran.

17. (New) The process of claim 16, wherein the acid is formic acid.

18. (New) The process of claim 17 wherein R is a benzoyl group, R<sub>1</sub> is a phenyl group, and R<sub>2</sub> is an acetyl group.

19. (New) The process of claim 18 wherein R is *tert*-butoxycarbonyl group, R<sub>1</sub> is a phenyl group, and R<sub>2</sub> is a hydrogen.

20. (New) A compound of Formula (IV)



(IV)

wherein R is a *tert*-butoxycarbonyl, benzoyl, or straight or branched chain alkyl carbonyl group; R<sub>1</sub> is a phenyl or a straight or branched alkyl or alkenyl group; and R<sub>2</sub> is hydrogen or an acetyl group.